

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant hereby elects Species I claims 1, 2, 4-7, 11-20, 22, 23 and 25-29, which are drawn to a cutting apparatus without a backstop, for prosecution on the merits of the present application. Applicant hereby reserves the right to pursue non-elected Species II claims in a separate continuing application(s) filed during the pendency of the present application.

The Office Action indicates that claim 15 links Species I and Species II, and that the restriction requirement is subject to the non-allowance of the linking claim, claim 15. Applicant hereby reserves the right to rejoin any claim(s) depending or otherwise requiring all the limitations of claim 15 upon indication that claim 15 is allowable.

The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney at (312) 775-8000 if any unresolved matters remain.

Please charge any fees incurred in connection with this submission to Deposit Account No. 13-0017.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: November 19, 2007

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